

(d) The project ALA/89/04 strengthening of Veterinary Services for Livestock Disease Control initiated in May, 1992 is scheduled to be completed by 31st March, 1998. The target date for eradication of rinderpest is 31st March, 1998 but the project has already succeeded in its efforts as there was no incidence of rinderpest in the country since October, 1995. Following the OIE Pathway the country has already made declaration of provisionally free from rinderpest from May, 1994 in the North Eastern & Eastern, Northern, Western and Central Parts of India leaving only the Southern States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Pondicherry.

Worship Act, 1991

1610. SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of places of worship restored under the places of Worship Act, 1991 upto March 31, 1996, State-wise;

(b) the details of cases filed in this regard between April-September, 1996; and

(c) the details of cases pending as on March 31, 1996 and September 30, 1996 State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) The places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991 prohibits conversion of any place of worship. The Act also provides for maintenance of the religious character of any place of worship as it existed on 15th August, 1947, and no suit, appeal or other proceeding with respect to any such matter shall lie on or after commencement of this Act in any court, tribunal etc. There is no specific provision in the Act for restoration of religious character of a place of worship.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Militants in Para-Military Forces

1611. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Governments have been drawn to the news-item captioned "Recruitment of surrendered militants in para military force" appearing in "Daily Punjab Kesari", dated November 20, 1996;

(b) If so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the policy of the Government regarding appointment of these militants; and

(d) the separate amount sanctioned by the Government for the purpose, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The Government has approved the raising of 1 Bn. each for BSF and CRPF for accommodating the surrendered militants in the J&K valley at an estimated expenditure of Rs.68.53 crore which shall be incurred over a period of 4-5 years.

Kuriyarkutty Project

1612. SHRI N.N. KRISHNA DAS : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2074 dated July 30, 1996 and state :

(a) whether the information sought regarding Kuriyarkutty-Karrappana Hydel project from Kerala Government has been received; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) No, Sir. Government of Kerala has not submitted requisite information to this Ministry so far.

(b) Does not arise.

Development of Animal Husbandry

1613. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is ample scope for the development of Animal Husbandry in West Bengal;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to set up Research Centres in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). No proposal is under consideration for setting up Research Centres in West Bengal during 1996-97. The existing Central farms are catering to Research need of the State Governments including West Bengal.

[Translation]

National Policy for Aged People

1614. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated number of aged/senior citizens in the country, State-wise and projection of their numerical strength for the next ten years; and

(b) the present Central sector schemes being implemented for the welfare of senior citizens along with the criteria fixed for coverage and the provisions made there under, Scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) The estimated number of aged/senior citizens (persons aged 60 years and above) in the country State-wise as per Census of India, 1981 are given in the Statement-I.

The estimated number of aged/senior citizens (persons 60 year and above) as projected by the Technical Group on Population Projections appointed by the Planning Commission under the Chairmanship of the Registrar General, India for the year 1996-2005 for India and major States are given in the Statement-II.

(b) The following are the Central Sector Schemes being implemented for the Welfare of Senior Citizens :-

1. The National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) which commenced in 1995 as amongst others provides for Old Age Pension to the Aged (65 years and above). The criteria fixed for coverage of beneficiaries for Old Age Pension Scheme are:-

- (a) The age of the applicant (male or female) shall be 65 years of higher;
- (b) The applicant must be a destitute in the sense of having little or on regular means of subsistence from his/her own source of income or through financial support from family members or other sources. In order to determine distribution, the criteria if any currently in force in the State/ UT Governments may also be followed. The Government of India reserve the right to review these criteria and suggest appropriate revised criteria.
- (c) The amount of old age Pension will be Rs.75/- per month for purpose of claiming Central assistance.
- (d) For 1996-97 an allocation of Rs.480.20 crores has been made for the Old age Pension Scheme.

2. Scheme of Assistance to voluntary Organisation for Programmes relating to the Aged.

Under this Scheme voluntary organisations are given 90% grants in aid (95% in respect of tribal areas) for setting up of Old Age Home, Day Care Centres and Mobile Medicare Units for the Welfare of the Aged (60 years and over of age). For year 1996-97 a provision of Rs.7 crores. has been made for this purpose.

STATEMENT-I

Total Population of Aged 60+

State	Population Aged 60+	
	Males	Females
India *	22,022,868	21,144,523
Andhra Pradesh	1,756,306	1,802,285
Bihar	2,434,073	2,321,565
Gujarat	969,639	1,058,938
Haryana	474,637	346,395
Himachal Pradesh	180,228	140,914
Jammu & Kashmir	203,965	141,500
Karnataka	1,222,320	1,236,457
Kerala	896,274	1,913,515
Madhya Pradesh	1,637,216	1,726,473
Maharashtra	1,906,718	2,042,094
Manipur	42,149	41,317
Meghalaya	32,261	26,909
Nagaland	25,680	20,342
Orissa	815,728	869,200
Punjab	739,719	569,493
Rajasthan	1,032,308	1,032,790
Sikkim	7,598	6,282
Tamil Nadu	1,596,692	1,507,962
Tripura	75,358	69,372
Uttar Pradesh	4,146,840	3,435,047
West Bengal	1,520,731	1,508,389
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	3,153	2,286
Arunachal Pradesh	16,264	13,829
Chandigarh	9,932	8,224
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1,937	2,210
Delhi	151,456	127,406
Goa, Daman & Diu	31,984	41,758
Lakshadweep	1,012	951
Mizoram	11,270	11,563
Pondicherry	20,314	20,262

* India excludes Assam

Note : Due to rounding off the total of aged 60 may not tally in all cases and there may be some marginal differences.

Source : Census of India 1981, Series-I India, Part III A(i) General Economic Tables

STATEMENT II

Projected population of persons aged 60 years and above for the years 1996 to 2005

India/Major States	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
India	62,317	63,635	65,069	66,673	68,510	70,571	71,944	73,756	76,006	78,690
Andhra Pradesh	4,793	4,946	5,066	5,196	5,338	5,587	5,706	5,874	6,087	6,344
Assam	1,291	1,310	1,333	1,359	1,391	1,428	1,452	1,487	1,532	1,587
Bihar	5,729	5,762	5,802	5,857	5,928	6,118	6,139	6,220	6,358	6,551
Gujarat	2,905	2,903	2,913	2,937	2,973	3,076	3,089	3,131	3,200	3,295
Haryana	1,421	1,408	1,399	1,395	1,399	1,415	1,409	1,414	1,430	1,465
Karnataka	3,392	3,452	3,517	3,591	3,680	3,783	3,847	3,940	4,060	4,207
Kerala	2,726	2,803	2,883	2,969	3,061	3,162	3,234	3,314	3,403	3,499
Madhya Pradesh	4,883	4,942	5,013	5,100	5,210	5,348	5,398	5,486	5,611	5,770
Maharashtra	5,949	6,037	6,145	6,274	6,428	6,603	6,676	6,799	6,970	7,188
Orissa	2,431	2,759	2,492	2,534	2,587	2,652	2,672	2,711	2,769	2,843
Punjab	1,735	1,719	1,708	1,703	1,704	1,743	1,721	1,716	1,728	1,756
Rajasthan	3,051	3,122	3,184	3,250	3,320	3,457	3,515	3,597	3,703	3,833
Tamil Nadu	4,414	4,571	4,737	4,912	5,101	5,301	5,466	5,659	5,881	6,130
Uttar Pradesh	10,610	10,684	10,772	10,886	11,025	11,390	11,438	11,581	11,815	12,135
West Bengal	4,459	4,594	4,739	4,895	4,067	5,291	5,413	5,604	5,823	6,069

[English]

Work Load on Consumer Fora

1615. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

SHRI VIJAY GOEL :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the method of functioning of the Consumer Fora;

(b) the number of cases pending with different Consumer Fora as on date, State/Union Territory-wise;

(c) whether any assessment has been made of the work-load presently handled by the various Consumer Fora and their utility, from the consumers point of view;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps envisaged to strengthen these Fora so that the consumer could get an early redressal of their grievances?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :

(a) The Consumer Fora are functioning accordance with the procedure laid down in the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 and the Rules framed thereunder at National, State and District level.

(b) As per the information available with the Government the number of cases pending with the State Commissions and District fora is given Statewise in the Statement.

(c) to (e). Central Government monitors the performance of the Consumer Fora in consultation with the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (National Commission) on a continual basis. Number of Cases pending with various Consumer Fora are still large. The pendency of cases in Consumer Fora is on account of factors such as inadequate infrastructure, frequent adjournments in the Fora and delay in appointments of the Presidents and Members of the Fora, etc. Concerned State Governments have been advised to activate the non-functional Fora by appointing Presidents/Members well in time. To strengthen the infrastructure of the Consumer Fora and also to reduce pendency of cases in the Consumer Fora, Central Government has commenced a scheme of one-time financial assistance of rupees 61 crores to the States and UTs. The level of pendency of Cases has declined during last two years as a result of the release of two instalments of grants to various States/UTs.

STATEMENT

State/UT	State Commissions		District Forums
	No. of Complaints Pending	No. of Appeals Pending	No. of Complaints Pending
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	715	723	12937
Arunachal Pradesh	4	4	34